

I think it will not be out of place, I give the inscription entire, as follows:—

Sacred to the memory of  
the Right Honourable  
JOHN JEFFREYS PRATT,  
Marquess Camden, K.G.  
Who died October 8, 1840,  
Aged 81 years.

During a long life passed in the  
service of the public,  
and in the highest offices of the state,  
He contributed by voluntary donations  
towards the exigencies of  
his country.

365, 1162, 146, 3d.

This tablet,  
to record his patriotism and virtues,  
is erected by his affectionate niece,  
Lady Caroline Wood.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than  
great riches."

The other memorial within the arch on the left, records the name and virtues of his mother, the Baroness Camden, from whom the noble family inherited the priory. Both works are from the chisel of John Evan Thomas, F.S.A. There are several other finely-wrought works, by Thomas; one a beautiful monumental figure, to the memory of the late John Powell, Esq., and on the opposite side another, commemorating the Rev. Thomas Coke, LL.D., the celebrated missionary, and a native of Brecon. But the work which forms the chief attraction, and gives to this church the greater interest and importance, is a beautiful group of figures, by our immortal sculptor, John Flaxman, R.A., to the memory of the Rev. Thomas James, of Brecon. Sweet serenity and spirituality pervade them; while a soothing influence involuntarily attracts and fixes the attention of the observer, and seems to extend and enlarge his faculties, to catch, by intuition, the contagion of virtuous tranquillity, and reach the level of such exalted associates. These almost breathing marbles, sculptured by such a master-hand, have a chaste and softening effect, when contrasted with the solemnity of the architecture and the loneliness of a country church, and appear to me to possess a far more sacred character than the gorgeous effigies of a city-cathedral. We seem to fancy these blessed spots, fixed by our forefathers in Nature's penetralis ages long gone by, possess a peculiar guardian sanctity, free from the busy hum of human life, and the fierce passions which degrade humanity; fit sanctuaries, therefore, for these productions of genius, so intimately connected with the last haven of repose.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,  
Berkeley-place, Brecknock. J. L. T.

#### RESTORATION OF ROSSINGTON CHURCH.

The above church during the last twelve months has been undergoing great alterations. These having lately been completed, the sacred edifice has been re-opened for the celebration of divine worship. Before entering into the details of the improvements which have been effected in the re-building of the greater portion of the church, we give the following extract descriptive of its former state, taken from "Wainwright's History of the Wapentake of Stradford and Tickhill."

"The church," says Wainwright, "before it underwent the process of improvement, was a venerable and highly interesting piece of architecture; but it now exhibits an aspect difficult to bring within the pale of technical description. To the world a sample of taste is left by its renovators, highly derogatory to the elasticity of their views, and inimical to the end for which the edifice was originally reared."

"The era of its erection, like that of most others, cannot be precisely ascertained. The few remains of the original structure bespeak an early foundation, and throw back its building to an age coeval with the reign of King Stephen."

"The archway, under which we pass into the chancel from the nave, presents, in its mouldings, a genuine specimen of the Anglo-Saxon or early Norman mode of decoration.

The inner pilaster is short, round, and massy, and entwined with a spiral band, which is succeeded by some ornamental tracery-work and a number of rude devices. Above this is placed a square abacus, whence springs a circular arch ornamented with a chevron border, and other Saxon embellishments."

"The pedestal, whereon the western pilaster is placed, is unusually high, and corresponds in make with the abacus. The outer or eastern side of the same opening shows a face somewhat different to that of the western, being formed by columns taller and more slender, but in other respects it partakes of the same order and age."

"The door leading into the interior of the place from the porch wears also an antiquated aspect. On each side are plain round pillars, headed by squabs abacuses, supporting a circular arch with a bevelled moulding, corresponding in age with the residue of the principal structure."

"The ambo or pulpit is an aged oaken box, carved in a style which prevailed before the reign of Henry VIII. On the upper border is the following mutilated inscription:—

RICARDI STANVILLE, ET UXORIS SUAE.

"The residue is hidden by the wall, to which it fastens. This venerable piece of sacred furniture is reported to have been brought from the desecrated church of St. Mary, in Doncaster."

"The tower is placed at the west end, and is of an age subsequent to the original erection of the church. It is divided into four parts by embossed partitions, flanked with light buttresses and surmounted with eight pinnacles."

"The fatality attendant on the alteration of the church, in reference to its architecture, was not less subversive of its monumental remains, for not even one, of either note or antiquity, has escaped the fangs of modern Gothicism. The injury done to the cause of truth by this wanton demolition of ancient tomb-stones is incalculable. To the biographer and the local historian the preservation of monumental memorials is of greater moment than is generally supposed. Not content with a bare recital of the good deeds, &c. of the defunct, the ancient as well as modern epitaphs often preserve, with scrupulous accuracy, much genealogical information, and bear forth to posterity historical and biographical notices, with a fidelity unequalled by any other documents whatever, save testamentary writings."

"This church is an ancient rectory, and from its foundation has belonged to the patronage of the Dean and Chapter, to whom it is inalienable. In the reign of Henry VI., passed with the manor to the burgesses of Doncaster, in a way already noticed."

"In its ecclesiastical character, it belongs to the deanery of Retford, in the archdeaconry of Nottingham; is a living in charge, and valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* Archiepisc. pro. ann. 4*s.*; Archiepisc. pro. Prom. 6*s.* 8*d.* In the age of Queen Elizabeth it bore the estimated value of 10*l.*, and in that of Pope Nicholas IV. 8*l.* It is dedicated to St. Michael."

The advowson belongs to James Brown, Esq., of Leeds, who purchased it, along with the estate and manor of Rossington, from the corporation of this borough, in the year 1839. After Mr. Brown had made his purchase, he found the church in a very dilapidated state, and almost unfit for the performance of public worship. He immediately determined that it should be entirely renovated. With this view, upwards of twelve months ago, workmen, under the direction of Mr. Clarke, architect, of Leeds, commenced operations. It was then intended to build two new transepts, to add a vestry, to enlarge the chancel, and to raise the roof of the body of the church. It was, however, ascertained that the foundation would not allow of the insistent walls being enlarged. On this being made known to Mr. Brown, he at once determined to re-build the whole of the church, with the exception of the tower, which is placed at the west end. New plans and new contracts were accordingly made and entered into, and hence the erection of the present neat and chaste edifice. The adoption of the latter, we feel confident, Mr. Brown will never have cause to regret, since the former plan would not, had the foundation

allowed, have rendered the building so neat and appropriate as it now is. The present church is built in the form of a cross, standing east and west. The style is thirteenth-century, adopted in the early English, or general style of the 13th century, of extreme beauty, and highly distinguished for its chaste simplicity and purity of design. The windows, which are long and narrow, consist of two round columns, with fine carved capitals and lancet arches, enriched with plain mouldings, relieved by deep narrow hollows. The columns of the two transept windows are banded in the middle. The roof is covered with blue slate, and the rain water is taken away by square cast-metal spouts, supported by four carved buttresses. No alteration has as yet taken place in the tower, and the crevices having some years ago been pointed with lime, in a great measure detract from the beauty of the rest of the building. The church now consists of a nave, a chancel, two transepts running north and south, a vestry erected on the north side of the chancel, and a porch on the south side, as well as one to the tower at the west end. The aisle formerly existing between the tower and the nave, which formed the western entrance, is now built up, with the exception of a small door to obtain access to the tower. The whole of the floor of the church has been considerably raised. From the nave to the chancel there are two steps, and the like number are also placed in front of the altar. The aisles are paved with dressed flag-stone, and on each side there is an iron grating rising the whole length, under which is placed cast-metal pipes containing water. The water in these pipes is heated by a fire and boiler erected underneath the vestry, which will at all times render the church warm and comfortable. Underneath the whole of the chancel a family vault has been formed for the interment of the present and future lords of the manor of Rossington. The walls of the interior of the church are plastered and panelled, with a view to keep them perfectly free in all seasons from damp. In front of the communion table a fine oak painted rail has been placed, covered with a beautiful mahogany top. The roof is open, and supported by pointed lead arches, also painted oak, and resting upon some stone corbels, carved after the same design as the capitals over the columns in the windows. The nave and transepts are fitted up with pews, with panelled doors, of a dark oak colour. On each side of the altar table, which is of oak, of rude construction, and of the same style, is a canopy in gilded letters the ten commandments, the Lord's prayer, and Apostles' creed. The position of the several entrances is precisely the same as in the old building. The font is placed opposite to the principal entrance, and near to the western arch. "This situation at the entrance of the sacred edifice is a most significant and appropriate position for the celebration of holy baptism, it being emblematical of that solemn sacrament by which persons are admitted members of the church of Christ." The tower contains three bells, which are not remarkable for that fine and clear tone so often met with in village peals. The only portions of the old building preserved in the present one are the arch over the porch door, and the arch leading from the nave to the chancel. The pulpit, which now stands at the north end of the south transept, has been repaired and made to correspond with the other portion of wood-work in the interior. The arch, the span of which has been enlarged, between the chancel and the nave, has been cleaned and repaired, displaying its rich tracery and zig-zag moulding. The arch over the entrance from the porch has likewise been repaired and cleaned, exhibiting more perceptible its nail-head and raven-beak moulding. The new portion of the building has been erected of Meiborn's stone, supplied by Mr. Willey, of that village. The several contractors for the various departments of the work reside in or near the village of Leeds, viz. Joiner, Mr. Shires, Chapeltown; plaster, Mr. Wood; mason, Mr. Neelton; metal-piping, &c., Mr. Nelson; and plumber, &c., Mr. Richard Gott. The architect is Mr. Clarke, of Leeds. It is stated that the cost of the alterations will not be less than 3,000*l.*, which sum has been entirely provided by the worthy proprietor of the estate, James Brown, Esq. of Leeds.—*Doncaster Gazette.*